

DATE: 11/03/2008
TIME: 9:23 P.M.
ACTIVITY: Rod Blagojevich home line incoming call.
SESSION: 162

SPEAKERS:
BLAGOJEVICH: Rod Blagojevich
GREENLEE: Robert Greenlee

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2 GREENLEE ...pressed by everybody involved. At
3 least the SEIU guys weren't pressing
4 you.
5 BLAGOJEVICH Huh?
6 GREENLEE I said, at least the SEIU guys weren't
7 pressing you.
8 BLAGOJEVICH Who wasn't pressing me?
9 GREENLEE Stern and them.
10 BLAGOJEVICH Yeah...
11 GREENLEE Balanoff...
12 BLAGOJEVICH ...yeah. They just don't want Jesse
13 Jackson, Jr. Tom Balanoff...
14 GREENLEE (Laughing) Well, I'll tell ya, you can
15 make Tom Balanoff's day easily.
16 BLAGOJEVICH I mean, it was like that was the reason
17 they came in, just to make sure I don't
18 do Jesse Jr.
19 (PAUSE)
20 GREENLEE Yeah, well listen that's the best thing
21 that could ever happen to you. If it,
22 there's, if there's anoth-, a few more
23 groups that really just don't want you
24 to pick a particular person, you'll be
25 in great shape. (PAUSE) I continue to

1 think that you're not gonna, you're not
2 gonna lose friends by not picking Jesse
3 Jr. He's got a lot of enemies.

4 BLAGOJEVICH Oh, yeah. Yeah, interestingly enough,
5 you, you really don't gain much and you
6 lose. If you're gonna go Jesse Jr go to
7 another African American that's not
8 gonna be, have the backlash you know?

9 GREENLEE Mm-hmm.

10 (PAUSE)

11 GREENLEE I think that's true.

12 BLAGOJEVICH For me objectively speaking, Obama
13 winning is better, right?

14 GREENLEE Yes.

15 BLAGOJEVICH Huh?

16 GREENLEE Yes.

17 (PAUSE)

18 BLAGOJEVICH And if they treat me without, you know,
19 any real, that they, they don't have any
20 great interest in the Senate seat and
21 they're not gonna offer anything of any
22 value, then I might just take it. You
23 know what I'm saying Bob?

24 GREENLEE Mm-hmm, yeah. And I, you know, I've
25 always, I've always said that there's a,
26 you know, you're, you're his strongest
27 vote for health care, in certain
28 respects.

29 BLAGOJEVICH I mean the point is, you know I'm gonna,
30 I'll be there, I'm gonna be in the
31 springtime being impeached by the House
32 with that wimp, gutless, spineless Cross
33 unable to do anything about it. Okay?
34 And I'll be saying to my, and I'll be
35 kicking myself cause that U.S. senator I
36 made and all those, and Obama and
37 everybody else will be nowhere to be
38 there intervening. You follow me?

1 GREENLEE Mm-hmm. Yeah I do.

2 BLAGOJEVICH Now how much of that do I have to
3 consider when I make a decision like
4 this I don't know? But it's a factor is
5 it not?

6 GREENLEE It is a factor. And one you have to
7 weigh heavily, I think.

8 BLAGOJEVICH Why do you say that?

9 GREENLEE Because if that becomes or becomes close
10 to a reality...

11 BLAGOJEVICH An impeachment.

12 GREENLEE ...yeah...

13 BLAGOJEVICH A political impeachment, not for
14 anything real, just...

15 GREENLEE ...no-no, just a purely political,
16 crass, political impeachment...

17 BLAGOJEVICH Yeah.

18 GREENLEE ...because look, there's no rea-, you
19 have no, I don't think any threat of a,
20 a real impeachment, this would all be a
21 political action. Then, it's a
22 distraction you don't need and it hurts
23 your chances in the long run.

24 BLAGOJEVICH That's correct.

25 GREENLEE You know.

26 BLAGOJEVICH You know, that's you're-, you're long
27 term thing is far more damaged by that
28 than it would be by uh, appointing
29 yourself senator, right?

30 GREENLEE Mm-hmm, absolutely.
31
32 (PAUSE)

33 GREENLEE You know, and better for them to say he
34 appointed himself to avoid being

1 impeached. Than to say he appointed
2 somebody else, then got impeached.

3 BLAGOJEVICH (Laughing) There you go.

4 GREENLEE (Laughs) You know?

5 BLAGOJEVICH Right.

6 GREENLEE It's better, you know, better to keep
7 your mouth shut, and appear stupid than
8 open your mouth and remove doubt. So,
9 you know, it's, I, I think if you really
10 think impeachment's a real
11 possibility...

12 BLAGOJEVICH How am I gonna judge that? I mean I
13 listen to Harris, he's a fuckin', you
14 know. I don't think it is, but I mean
15 on the other hand if Madigan wants to do
16 it he can do it. And Cross is
17 absolutely no help.

18 GREENLEE I mean the last thing you should do is
19 hope for Cross to be any support.

20 BLAGOJEVICH Right.

21 GREENLEE ...you know. He's not, you know, Cross
22 is a lot of things and none of them is,
23 is a, you know, a stalwart friend in
24 need. Just, you know...

25 BLAGOJEVICH And what's his name, the speaker, uh or
26 the president, Senate President
27 Cullerton, he's up for re-election Mell
28 says we're gonna run someone against you
29 Cullerton unless you impeach my son-in-
30 law. That, it is an extreme thing I'm
31 thinking. Tribune pushes the drum beat,
32 what do you say to that?

33 GREENLEE I think it, look, I'm very concerned. I
34 think that it is very, it's very real,
35 that if people want to take you down for
36 political reasons, they will use every
37 power at their disposal to do so.

1 BLAGOJEVICH And I'm fearful we can't, we won't get
2 an honest press. I'm worried about the
3 press. In fact the Tribune will be
4 driving it.

5 GREENLEE Yeah. A lot of these things are, a lot
6 of these things are real concerns. I
7 mean look, I've, I've yet to see a fair
8 story from the Tribune on you. So, you
9 know for you to be fearful of the
10 Tribune driving it is, I think, a well
11 founded concern.

12 BLAGOJEVICH Didn't they just advocate that I be
13 impeached?

14 GREENLEE They advocated you be recalled. I don't
15 know that they've ever advocated...

16 BLAGOJEVICH Didn't they just recently, on the family
17 care thing.

18 GREENLEE I would have to look again, but I don't
19 recall them advocating you be impeached.

20 BLAGOJEVICH How, how, how long would it take you to
21 look into that?

22 GREENLEE Um, it would take me about a half hour.

23 BLAGOJEVICH It'd take you that long huh?

24 GREENLEE Yeah, 'cause I just have to look for the
25 right key words on these editorials.

26 BLAGOJEVICH Well here, it was, it was within
27 whenever that family care verdict
28 decision came down. So, it was the
29 middle of October.

30 GREENLEE See I think they implied, said that it
31 was, you know, that it was impeachable,
32 they, you know, that people were without
33 health care, but I don't think they said
34 you had, you should be impeached. I
35 don't think they made that (UI) on it.

1 BLAGOJEVICH You-you pull it up, tell me what it
2 says.

3 GREENLEE Yeah, give me a second.

4 BLAGOJEVICH You wanna call me?

5 GREENLEE Uh, yeah, let me call you in like ten.

6 BLAGOJEVICH Alright bye.

7 GREENLEE Bye.